

New evidence found for 'The Fugitive' case

CLEVELAND (AP) — DNA tests on blood taken from the home of Dr. Sam Sheppard support his famous alibi — that a bushy-haired intruder beat his pregnant wife to death more than 40 years ago, a lawyer hired by Sheppard's son said Tuesday.

The findings are the strongest indication yet that Sheppard, whose sensational story inspired "The Fugitive," was telling the truth, said Terry Gilbert, who represents Sheppard's son, Sam Reese Sheppard.

The test results are "entirely consistent with Sam Sheppard's story, that he came upon an intruder and there was a struggle," Gilbert said.

The findings were presented Tuesday to Cuyahoga County officials and a team working for Sheppard's son, who has worked for years to clear his father's name.

The initial investigation assumed all blood found at the scene was Mrs. Sheppard's, since there was no evidence that Sam Sheppard was cut.

His DNA could not be tested, either, because Gilbert said

attempts to obtain a sample of Sheppard's DNA from the back of a stamp on a 1943 letter were unsuccessful.

Forensic DNA specialist Dr. Mohammad Tahir, who conducted the tests for free, said he tested two bloodstained items — a wood chip and a swatch of Sheppard's pants — preserved from the crime scene, as well as two vaginal smears taken during Mrs. Sheppard's autopsy.

The tests showed the blood could not be hers, but the findings did not exclude a convicted murderer who once washed windows at the Sheppard home and was briefly suspected of her slaying, Gilbert and Tahir said.

The scientists said the DNA could belong to inmate Richard Eberling, although they gave no statistics on that likelihood.

"The dominant type I found was consistent with Mr. Eberling," Tahir said.

The dried blood could also have been a mixture of two other people's blood, or possibly one person's blood that became contaminated over the years, Tahir said.

PETITION

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Carl Baggett, student body president and a senior accounting major, said the student government association has tried to remain fair throughout the petitioning process.

"We're trying to give everyone who wants to have input in the

process every means to do so," Baggett said.

Referendums initiated by the Senate must be held 15 days prior to a filing deadline for candidates, but since this was student-initiated, the referendum has no clear deadline to apply to this year's elections.

If a majority of the student body votes in favor of it, the next general election will include yell leader run-offs.

Fire officials give students safety tips

Marshal says most fires can be avoided

By BENJAMIN CHENG
THE BATTALION

In the wake of a fire at Kensington Place Apartments, fire officials are giving Texas A&M students fire safety tips to prevent future incidents.

Paul L. Meloeny, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Seabrook, Texas, was killed and Alexander Clinton, a sophomore environmental design major, was hospitalized in the Jan. 18 blaze.

Mike Ruesink, College Station Fire Prevention and Education officer, emphasized the responsibility of inhabitants to prevent fires.

"What they do inside those walls," Ruesink said, "is what's going to make the apartment safe to live there."

John Mies, College Station Fire Marshal, said 90 to 95 percent of fires can be avoided if precautions are taken.

"It's either an act or an omission," Mies said. "Somebody did something or didn't do something that caused the fire."

The College Station Fire Department issues a handout listing 10 fire safety tips.

Mies and Ruesink said these tips are essential in preventing fires, especially for those who live in apartments.

Install and Maintain Smoke Detectors
"Have a smoke detector," Mies said. "A working smoke detector."

The tenant or landlord is responsible for providing the renter with an operating smoke detector. The maintenance of batteries for a battery-operated smoke detector is usually the responsibility of the renter.

The smoke detector in Meloeny's apartment was found operating in the closet. This resulted in the smoke detector being delayed in sounding an alarm, Mies said.

Ruesink said Meloeny chances of surviving the fire would have been greater if the smoke detector had been placed properly.

"He would have had a better chance of getting out alive," Ruesink said. "The earlier the warning, the more time you have to get out."

Ruesink and Mies said apartment dwellers should have a battery-operated smoke detector in each sleeping area. Smoke detectors cost \$6 to \$25.

Smokers Need Watchers

Carelessly discarded cigarettes are the No. 1 cause of fire deaths in the United States. Lit cigarettes near combustible materials are a fire hazard.

"Never smoke in bed," Ruesink said.

The majority of smoking related fatal fires in residences start in bedrooms, Mies said.

He said the Kensington fire was most likely smoking related.

"We can't say for sure that a cigarette caused it," Mies said. "But we've more or less ruled everything else out."

College Station has had two fatal fires in the last 20 years and both were smoking related. Mies said both could have been prevented if a working smoke detector had been properly located.

Know Two Ways Out

Every sleeping area in College Station must have a door and a window.

"That window is your second means of escape," Mies said.

Mies advises people in a fire to crawl on the floor and feel the door before opening it. If the door is hot, he said, find another means of escape.

"If there's a fire outside of your room and you open that door," Mies said, "you could be breathing in air and smoke and gases in excess of 800 degrees."

Mies said people should leave immediately and not gather their belongings.

Use Electricity Safety

Ruesink said misuse of extension cords and overloaded electrical sockets are fire hazards.

"Extension cords are not meant to be used on a permanent basis," Ruesink said.

Ruesink also advises against stapling electrical cords or placing them under rugs.

Be Careful While Cooking

The majority of fires in residences start in

Fire Prevention Tips

- Install and maintain a smoke detector
- Watch for lit or smoldering cigarettes
- Take precautions when cooking
- Use electricity safely

Keep matches and lighters away from children

SOURCE: National Fire Protection Agency
James Vineyard, THE BATTALION

kitchens, Mies said.

"If you've got something on the stove, leave the kitchen," Ruesink said. "I don't want you're boiling water or frying fish."

College Station averages 30 to 40 fires each year.

Renter's Insurance

Mies said renters should have renter's insurance to protect against fire damage.

"It protects your belongings and clothes," Mies said. "Most people do not have it."

Basic renter's insurance costs \$75 per year.

Questions about fire safety should be directed to the College Station Fire Department at 764-3705.

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STATUE

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Joe Moore, Class of '38, initiated and underwrote the purchase of the monument after viewing the casting at Goodnight's studio in Santa Fe.

Dr. Robert Walker, the vice president for Development at A&M, is directing a fund raiser for the purchase of the monument.

Tim Donathen, assistant

vice-chancellor for Facilities, Planning and Construction, visited the monument in Stone Mountain Park.

"It's a very large piece of sculpture," Donathen said. "It's going to fit in very well."

The monument weighs seven tons and is 12 feet high, 18 feet wide and 30 feet long. It will reside in a plaza outside the Presidential Library.

The monument will be moved to the Bush Library during the summer, Donathen said.

Goodnight said the Bush Library was the most appropriate place for the monument because of her recognition of Bush's diplomatic skills in ending the Cold War.

"He was one of the best international diplomats we've had," she said.

The monument is the second of two castings done by Goodnight. The first casting is currently on loan to the city of Denver. In the future, this casting will be moved and displayed in Berlin, Germany, as a gift from the American people.

Goodnight has another sculpture displayed at Texas A&M, "ARCH 401," outside the Architecture building. The monument was commissioned by Joe and Betty Moore in remembrance of their late son Stephen.

Anyone interested in contributing funds to the purchase of the Berlin Wall monument should contact Dr. Bob Walker at 845-8161.

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THE BA INSIDE

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